

## Old Seadogs Race

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Start time – 1430

The weather before the start of the race was fine with a moderate breeze from the southwest and a lot of blue sky and sunshine. A good fleet of six boats entered and the original course included a first leg out to the North One Fathom buoy. By the time the fleet arrived at the line the wind had lightened and gone into the west so the skippers decided that it would be very difficult to make over the tide to the original first mark. The course was changed by mutual agreement with the first mark becoming the South Cardiff buoy to be left on the port hand. On the return to the finish the vessels had also to leave the Sully mark to port.

The photographs attached to this report show the situation just before, and immediately after, the start. The wind conditions were somewhat patchy on the up channel leg but boats were able to lay the course without too much difficulty. *Lesmar II* was able to set her spinnaker as far as Sully Island giving her a lead. However, the wind then veered and she had to lower this sail. Her lead was insufficient to prevent *MiSue* passing her and leading round the South Cardiff with the remainder quite closely bunched. The wind freshened from the northwest on the return and very pleasant sailing conditions were found with a flat sea. All boats initially went inshore to find weaker tide and then the early ebb. *Lesmar II* tacked off earlier than the rest of the fleet in order to lee bow the last of the flood. Although this was initially beneficial those that went closer to the shore eventually benefited from the young ebb. The order of the fleet around Sully Mark was maintained on the close fetch to the finish.

Those ashore at Barry experienced very heavy rain and hailstones for half an hour or so whilst those at sea experienced nothing at all inclement. It clearly paid to be out on the channel that afternoon. The finishing order can be seen from the result sheet below with *MiSue* finishing first some 18 minutes ahead of *Porthceri*. The remainder of the fleet finished some 10 minutes later and were very close to one another. The four boats in this group all finished within a period of only some 5 minutes.

This race uses a handicap system which favours the elderly. For every year that the helmsman's age exceeds 50 the handicap figure is increased by 10 points. The one nominated crew's age also benefits the handicap to the tune of 5 points for every year it exceeds 50. If any crew member is less than 50 years old, then 10 points are deducted for every year under that age. There was only one crew afloat aged less than 50 and he was aboard the Commodore's boat, *Porthceri*, sailed by the Vice Commodore, who thereby suffered a handicap penalty.

**David Jenkins**, the helmsman of the winning boat, *MiSue*, becomes the **Top Dog** for 2017 whilst **Mike Gavan**, the helmsman of the last boat, *Shoogaroo*, is the **Dogs Bottom**.

Helmsman	Boat	Basic PY H/cap	Age Add	Final PY H/cap	Finish time	Elapsed time	Corrected time	Place
David Jenkins	MiSue	1039	325	1364	16:29:05	1:59:05	1:27:18	1
Bob Bowen	Preceptor	1029	450	1479	16:57:20	2:27:20	1:39:37	2
Bev Luen	Ripple	1075	375	1450	16:55:01	2:25:01	1:40:01	3
Geoff Case	Lesmar II	1116	385	1501	17:00:15	2:30:15	1:40:06	4
Keith Lewis	Porthceri	1046	110	1156	16:47:10	2:17:10	1:58:39	5
Mike Gavan	Shoogaroo	1029	160	1189	16:58:00	2:28:00	2:04:28	6



Before the Start



The Start